

independence of, older individuals who are blind; and

(2) Engage in—

(i) Capacity-building activities, including collaboration with other agencies and organizations;

(ii) Activities to promote community awareness, involvement, and assistance; and

(iii) Outreach efforts;

(f) The application is consistent with the State plan for providing IL services required by section 704 of the Act and subpart C of 34 CFR part 364; and

(g) The applicant has been designated by the State as the sole State agency authorized to provide rehabilitation services to individuals who are blind.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1820–0018)

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 711(c) and 796k(d), (f), (h), and (i))

Subpart C—How Does the Secretary Award Discretionary Grants on a Competitive Basis?

§ 367.20 Under what circumstances does the Secretary award discretionary grants on a competitive basis to States?

(a) In the case of a fiscal year for which the amount appropriated under section 753 of the Act is less than \$13,000,000, the Secretary awards discretionary grants under this part on a competitive basis to States.

(b) Subparts A, B, C, and E of this part govern the award of competitive grants under this part.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 796k(b)(1))

§ 367.21 How does the Secretary evaluate an application for a discretionary grant?

(a) The Secretary evaluates an application for a discretionary grant on the basis of the criteria in § 367.22.

(b) The Secretary awards up to 100 points for these criteria.

(c) The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses.

(Authority: 29 U.S.C. 711(c) and 796k(b)(1) and (i)(1))

§ 367.22 What selection criteria does the Secretary use?

The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate an application for a discretionary grant:

(a) *Extent of need for the project* (20 points). (1) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the extent to which the project meets the specific needs of the program, including consideration of—

(i) The needs addressed by the project;

(ii) How the applicant identified those needs;

(iii) How those needs will be met by the project; and

(iv) The benefits to be gained by meeting those needs.

(2) The Secretary reviews each application to determine—

(i) The extent that the need for IL services for older individuals who are blind is justified, in terms of complementing or expanding existing IL and aging programs and facilities; and

(ii) The potential of the project to support the overall mission of the IL program, as stated in section 701 of the Act.

(b) *Plan of operation* (25 points). The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the plan of operation for the project, including—

(1) The quality of the design of the project;

(2) The extent to which the plan of management ensures proper and efficient administration of the project;

(3) How well the objectives of the project relate to the purpose of the program;

(4) The quality and adequacy of the applicant's plan to use its resources (including funding, facilities, equipment, and supplies) and personnel to achieve each objective;

(5) How the applicant will ensure that project participants who are otherwise eligible to participate are selected without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability;

(6) A clear description of how the applicant will provide equal access to services for eligible project participants who are members of groups that